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President's Weekly Perspective, 2008_01_07

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Monday Morning Message
January 7, 2007

Good morning and Happy New Year!

It's great to be back. I hope you and yours had a restful holiday and that you're now ready to join me in taking advantage of the many opportunities that await us in 2008. Once again, thanks to everyone who had to work during the break. We greatly appreciate your dedication.

A large group of folks who worked over the break were implementing the Banner HR/Payroll conversion. I understand that has been accomplished and now we are set to begin using the new payroll processes. In fact, the first big test is upon us because bi-weekly and student payroll forms must be entered and approved by 5 p.m. today. I cannot emphasize strongly enough how important it is that this be done correctly and efficiently. We do not want any of our employees to have their paycheck delayed. Should you experience any difficulties, the HR/Payroll support center is available from 8 am to 5 p m, Monday through Friday, at 277-HRPR (4777). Or get specifics from the HR website at <http://hr.unm.edu>.

A deadline is rapidly approaching for another major project impacting many of our faculty, staff and researchers. The U.S. Department of Homeland Security has mandated that all colleges and universities conduct a survey of what they're calling "chemicals of interest." Anyone working with specific chemicals throughout the university and satellite campuses must identify the amounts and location of said chemicals. There are more than 300 on the list. This is a new survey and it has to be completed by January 25. Failure to do so will be costly as fines for non-compliance can be as much as \$25,000 a day for each location at UNM. This is serious stuff, folks. UNM's Safety and Risk Services Department has sent out the chemical list, instructions and the forms to departments, faculty and researchers. If you have questions, please contact Dr. Lowell D. White, manager of chemical hygiene, at 277-0895 or ldwhite@unm.edu. For more information: <http://www.unm.edu/~market/cgi-bin/archives/002513.html#more>

It was great to be in the stands to watch the Lobo victory in the New Mexico Bowl. I also had the opportunity to watch our men's basketball team beat UTEP in El Paso. In a nail-biter, the Lobos scored another great victory over Wyoming this past weekend. It's been a really good run. Come out and support the Lobo women as they take on Wyoming at the Pit Wednesday evening. Go Lobos!

Have a good week.
David J. Schmidly